**FEBRUARY 28**

**Friday of Cheesefare. Ven. Basil the Confessor, Companion of Ven. Procopius of Decapolis.**

***(at Daily Vespers, Thursday evening)***

**"Lord, I Call..." Tone 3**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 3** *(from the Octoechos)*

Although in Thy divine nature Thou art passionless, O Lord,

in Thy human nature Thou didst endure passion.

Thou wast nailed to the Cross,

and Thy side was pierced by a spear,//

pouring forth for me two streams of ineffable mysteries.

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Wearing a crown plaited with thorns, O King of all,

Thou didst destroy the penalty of sin:

the cursed earth which brought forth weeds and thorns.

Taking the reed in Thy hands,

Thou didst inscribe in the book of heaven//

all those who believe in Thee.

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord.*

The unjust jealousy of the people was boundless;

it was not spent when they had crucified Thee, O blameless Christ,

nor when they mocked Thee as a liar, nor when Thou wast dead,

nor when they craftily sought from Pilate a guard for Thy tomb.//

How great is the anger of ruthless mankind!

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 4** *(from the Menaion, for Venerable Basil) (You have given a sign)*

Thou didst desire blessedness past understanding,

so thou didst reckon abstinence as thy food,

poverty to be thy wealth,

lack of acquisitiveness as abundant possessions,

and humility as glory, O wondrous one.

Therefore thou didst receive thy desire

in accordance with thine understanding.//

Thou dost abide in the tabernacles of the saints, O Basil.

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Thou didst steadfastly complete the course of abstinence and didst keep the faith.

Therefore thou hast been adorned with the crown of righteousness

which Christ has prepared for thee, O Father,

rewarding thee in accordance with thy worth

and granting thee honors and rewards for thy struggles.//

O divinely inspired one, beseech Him to save our souls!

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Thou didst cut off all love of pleasure, O divine one,

thus freeing thy body from slavery.

Thou didst harrow thy senses with the struggles of abstinence

through the terrible conditions in which thou didst live:

the endurance of temptations and evil situations.

Therefore thou hast received unending delight,//

everlasting sweetness and ineffable joy.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4**  *(Cross-Theotokion)*

Beholding Christ, Who loveth mankind, crucified,

His side pierced by a spear,

the all-pure one cried out, weeping:

“What is this, O my Son?

What have the thankless people done to Thee

in return for the good Thou hast done for them?

Thou makest haste to leave me childness, O most Loving One.

I marvel at Thy voluntary crucifixion, O Compassionate One!”

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2 Idiomelon**  *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

The Cross of the Lord is ever adored

as the binding of pleasures, the law of Lent.

Those who ceaselessly contemplate the Crucified One

crucify the flesh with its passions and lusts.

Let us also flee from these through a pure fast!

Let us join Him Who joined in the passion, out of love for mankind,

Who granted us a passionless nature,//

and Who possesses great mercy!

*v: To Thee, I lift up mine eyes, O Thou who art enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps. 122/123:1-2)*

(Repeat: “The Cross of the Lord …”)

*v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122/123:3-4)*

**Tone 2** *(for the martyrs)*

Not desiring earthly pleasures,

the victorious martyrs were granted heavenly blessings.

They have become fellow-citizens with the Angels.//

Through their prayers, O Lord, have mercy on us and save us!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2**  *(Cross-Theotokion) (Joseph of Arimathea)*

O pure Virgin, when thou didst behold suspended on the Tree

the ripe Cluster of grapes Whom thou hadst borne untilled in thy womb,

thou didst cry out, lamenting:

“O my Child, Who dost emit sweetness,

drip down that most sweet wine,

through which all the drunkenness of the passions is abolished,

and through me, who gave Thee birth,//

be well pleased to show Thy compassion, O Benefactor!”

**Tone 8** **The Lenten Troparia**

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace! The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of thy womb; //

for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

O Baptizer of Christ, remember us all,

that we may be delivered from our iniquities;//

for to thee is given grace to intercede for us!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Intercede for us, O holy Apostles and all ye saints,

that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows;//

for we have acquired thou as fervent intercessors before the Savior!

Beneath thy compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos.

Do not despise our supplications in adversity,//

but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only blessed one!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.